Letter from the Editor

What we're all about
Reach Out, Columbia is committed to presenting the heart and works of Jesus Christ in clarity and purity. We strive to encourage a deeper, more steadfast love toward others as well as provide a vehicle for the body of Christ to come together as one voice in corporate agreement and expression of faith.

T hree-year-olds see everything, so we weren't surprised that our granddaughter spotted the policeman standing in line behind us. Dressed in his working blues, he'd had the same idea we had—swing into Pelican's SnoBalls and get a frozen treat.

While my husband waited to order, Lauren looked him over from his closely cropped hair to his shiny-toed shoes. She eyed the handcuffs, the nightstick, and, especially, the gun holstered to his belt.

"This man is a policeman," my husband said, following her gaze. "If you ever need help, you can ask him, and he'll help you. That's his job." The policeman nodded solemnly, and Lauren did too.

"Give this man whatever he wants," my husband said to the cashier taking our order, and when the deputy protested, he said, "It's a small thank you for keeping us safe."

For this issue of *Reach Out, Columbia*, contributing writer Robert Timmons talked with several members of our police force. The resulting article, "Faith Responders," gives us a glimpse into the lives of the godly men and women who strap on the armor of God before they put on their body armor. It's a simple, heartfelt tribute.

Our cover story takes us out of the heat and into the kitchen—Chef Richard Rouse's First Baptist Church kitchen, to be exact. A kitchen is an unlikely setting for social change, but Rouse is accomplishing it, one struggling soul at a time. Not content to just enjoy the good life his own rehabilitation has given him, Rouse continues to pay it forward into the lives of countless recovering addicts, ex-cons, and teens. His recipe for success includes a healthy dose of training, a generous portion of common sense, and a whole lot of prayer.

One of my favorite articles in this issue is Lael Arrington's piece, "After the Election—How to Respond with Faith and Strength." Regardless of which side of the political aisle you find yourself, her words will encourage and challenge you. The truth of God's control over the affairs of mankind is an anchor in the troubled cultural and political climate in which we live.

This month, as we celebrate the men and women who keep us safe, the power of second chances, and the privilege of electing our public servants, I hope you, like my granddaughter Lauren, will look around. Notice those who are laboring among us for the good of our nation, state, and community. Pray for them. Respect them. Look for ways to lighten their burden.

And if you run into one of them in a restaurant, pick up their tab. It's a small thank you for such a great service.

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief," (Heb. 13:17).

Lori